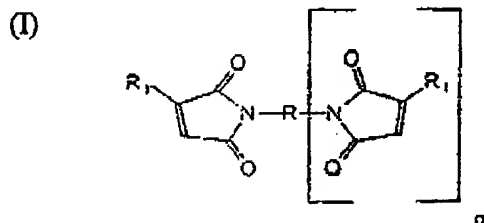


Claim 1 (currently amended) A composition consisting essentially of crosslinkable components useful for providing surface tack free thermoset surface cures of polymers by curing with free radical initiators ~~organic peroxides~~ in the presence of air, the components comprising:

a) At least one compound (A) ~~selected from the group consisting of silicone elastomers and a compound~~ having the formula (I):



Wherein n is 1, ~~or 2 and~~ R is divalent, or trivalent and is selected from the group consisting of cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 2 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 5 to 20 carbon atoms, aromatic groups having from about 6 to 18 carbon atoms and alkyl aromatic groups having from about 7 to 24 carbon atoms, and wherein the divalent, or trivalent groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, replacing a carbon atom, or carbon atoms and each R¹ is identical and is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

(b) At least one compound (B) ~~selected from the group consisting of p-phenylenediamine based antioxidants and sulfur containing organic compounds~~ selected from the group consisting of sulfur containing organic compounds capable of accelerating sulfur vulcanization of a polymer capable of being crosslinked by sulfur, polysulfide polymers and mixtures of said sulfur containing compounds; and

(c) A free radical initiator (C) ~~selected from the group consisting of organic peroxides and azo~~ initiators.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) A composition comprising a composition as defined in Claim 21 and a polymer curable by free radical initiators.

Claim 4 (original) A process comprising forming the composition of Claim 3 into a shaped article and then subjecting it in the presence of molecular oxygen to a temperature sufficient to initiate decomposition of the free radical initiator and thereby obtaining a cured shaped article substantially free of surface tack.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A composition formed by mixing compounds (A), and (B) and (C) as defined in claim ~~one~~ 1.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claims 8-11 (withdrawn)

6¹
Claim 12 (original) A composition as defined in claim 1 also comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of chlorinated polyethylene and chlorosulfonated polyethylene.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 wherein the free radical initiator is selected from organic peroxides.

Claim 14 (original) A surface tack free cured polymer cured in the presence of molecular oxygen by free radicals generated by decomposition of the free radical initiator in a composition as defined in claim 3.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A process for making a surface tack free thermoset cured polymer cured by free radicals generated by decomposition of a free radical initiator contained therein in the presence of molecular oxygen which comprises compounding said polymer with a composition as defined in claim 21 and supplying sufficient heat energy to decompose the free radical initiator thus introduced into the polymer.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A process for making a curable composition capable of being cured to a tack free surface in the presence of molecular oxygen by a free radical initiator which process comprises compounding a polymer capable of being crosslinked by a free radical initiator with a composition as defined in claim 21.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein ~~compound (A) is selected from one or more bismaleimides~~ and compound (B) is selected from the group consisting of dialkylthiuram tetrasulfides, diarylthiuram tetrasulfides, alkylphenol disulfides, tetraalkylthiuram monosulfides, tetraarylthiuram monosulfides and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 wherein the free radical initiator is selected from dialkyl peroxides or peroxyketals.

Claim 20 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 18 additionally ~~containing a free radical initiator~~ wherein compound (C) is selected from dialkyl peroxides or peroxyketals.

B¹
Claim 21 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein ~~compound (A) is selected from one or more bismaleimides~~ and compound (B) is selected from the group consisting of 4,4-dithiomorpholine, acyclicalkyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, cyclicalkyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, aryl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamides, alkylphenol disulfides and mixtures thereof.

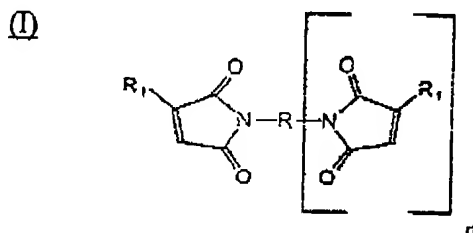
Claim 22 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 additionally ~~containing a free radical initiator~~ wherein compound (C) is selected from dialkyl peroxides, or peroxyketals.

Claim 23 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, 4,4-dithiomorpholine, alkylphenoldisulfide and N-cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazole sulfenamide.

Claim 24 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, dipentamethylene thiuram tetrasulfide, alkylphenoldisulfide and tetramethylthiuram monosulfide.

Claim 25 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 comprising dicumylperoxide, N,N-diphenylenebismaleimide, dipentamethylenethiuram tetrasulfide, alkylphenol disulfide and N-t-butyl-benzothiazole-2-sulfenimide.

Claim 26 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 1 comprising
a) at least one compound (A) having the formula (I):



wherein n is 1, R is divalent or trivalent and is selected from the group consisting of cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 2 to 16 carbon atoms, cyclic aliphatic groups having from about 5 to 20 carbon atoms, aromatic groups having from about 6 to 18 carbon atoms and alkyl aromatic groups having from about 7 to 24 carbon atoms, and wherein the divalent, or trivalent groups may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, replacing a carbon atom, or carbon atoms and each R^1 is identical and is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

(b) At least one compound (B) selected from the group consisting of sulfur containing organic compounds capable of accelerating sulfur vulcanization of a polymer capable of being crosslinked by sulfur, polysulfide polymers and mixtures of said sulfur containing compounds,

which composition is formulated as a masterbatch on a carrier selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline wax, polycaprolactone, EPDM, EPM, EVA, PE and mixtures thereof.

Claim 27 (currently amended) A composition as defined in claim 21 formulated as a masterbatch on a carrier selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline wax, polycaprolactone, EPDM, EPM, EVA, PE and mixtures thereof.